

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

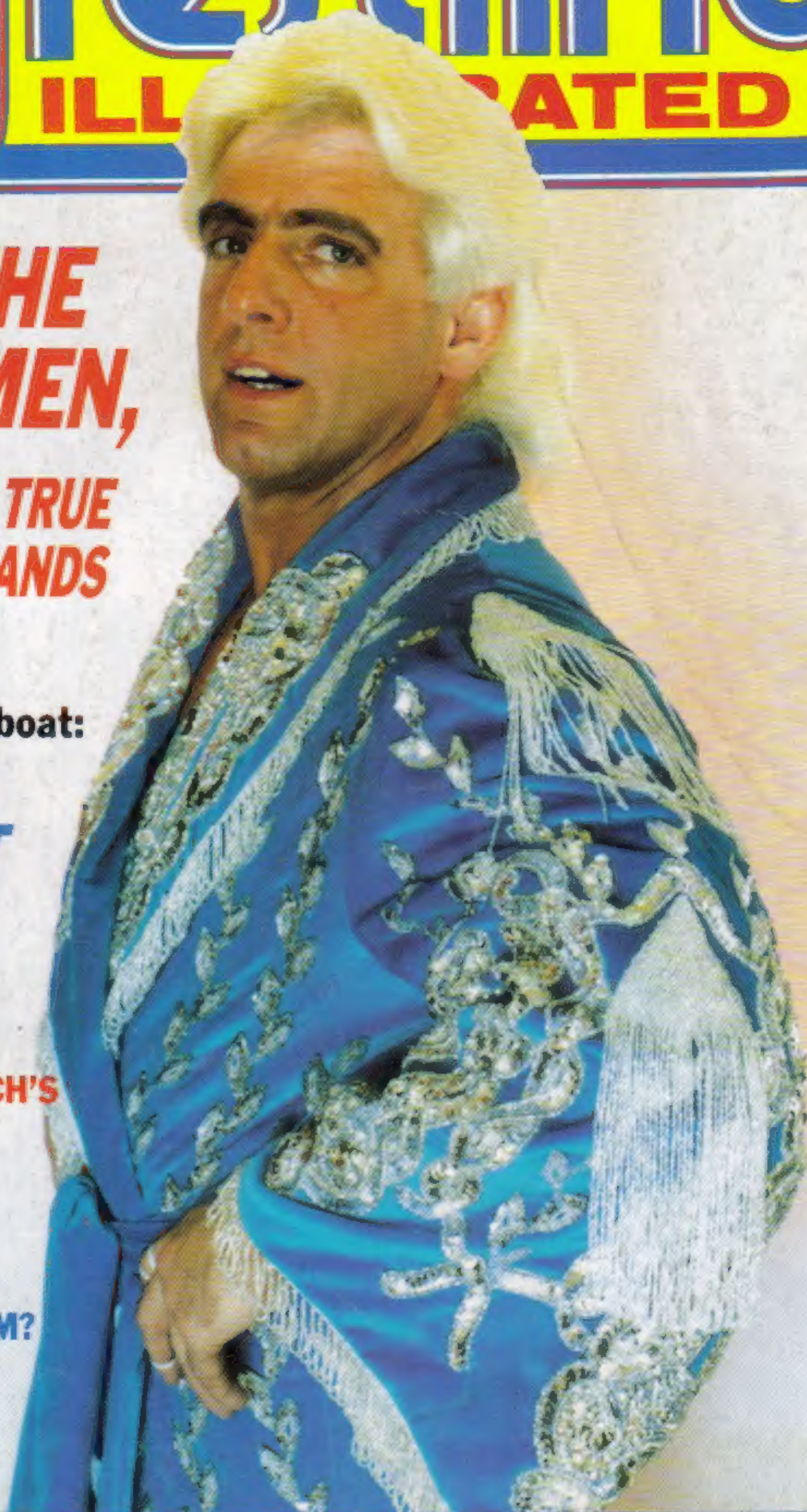


**DUMP THE
HORSEMEN,
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ON HIS OWN!**

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THE MATCH
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RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

THE ROCK 'N' ROLL Express regained the NWA World tag team belts from **Rick Rude** and **Manny Fernandez**. The victory marks the fourth time that the popular team of **Robert Gibson** and **Rick Morton** have won the belts.

"This has to be the most satisfying of all our wins," said Morton. "You know, there've been a lot of people out there who've been saying, 'The Rock 'n' Rolls are washed up. They ain't what they used to be.' But we proved to everyone that the Rock 'n'

Rolls are here to stay and we're always gonna be the best tag team around."

Indeed, the Rock 'n' Rolls had been slumping. After losing the belts to Rude and Fernandez in early December, Gibson and Morton proceeded to slide in the ratings. In fact, after missing the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament because of an eye injury suffered by Morton, the Rock 'n' Rolls dropped out of the **Pro Wrestling Illustrated** Tag Team Top 10 entirely.

"That really hurt us," said Gibson. "But we bounced back. We've gone through some good times and some bad times, but perseverance is what makes a great tag team. Of course, I don't think we could've done this without the fans. They've always stuck with us and we owe them our gratitude."

Paul Jones, manager of Rude and Fernandez, vowed that the Rock 'n' Rolls' title reign will not last long. "Luck, pure luck, that's what it was," said Jones. "They didn't impress me at all. I'm just gonna act like this never happened and work toward getting those belts back for my men."

The rumor that Rude is headed to the WWF was unsubstantiated at press time.

The feud between AWA World heavyweight champion **Curt Hennig** and former champ **Nick Bockwinkel** is heating up. After Hennig's controversial May 2 pinfall victory over Bockwinkel in San Francisco was held up by an AWA review committee, President **Stanley Blackburn** announced a series of rematches. So far, Hennig has held on to the title against his older rival.

But there's another side to this feud. **Larry Zbyszko** and **Ray Stevens** have been waging their own war of words. Stevens, of course, accused Zbyszko of handing Hennig a foreign object during the May 2 title match, prompting the review.

"Obviously, the AWA decided that there was no evidence to disallow the pin," said Stevens. "But that doesn't mean I wasn't right. I can handle a guy like Hennig winning the title, but I can't deal with a jerk like Zbyszko illegally interfering in such an impor-

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The Rock 'n' Roll Express has regained the NWA World tag team title from Rick Rude and Manny Fernandez. The three-time champions gained their fourth title less than two months after Rick Morton was forced to miss the Crockett Cup due to an eye injury.

Steve Williams Goes Out On A Limb:

STEVE WILLIAMS TRIED to sound philosophical, an odd juxtaposition to his craggy face and gravelly voice.

"Some people have strange ways of asking for things," said "Dr. Death," building up steam with every word. "One person might come to me and say, 'Steve, I'd like you to break every bone in my measly little body,' while another might say, 'Mr. Death, you're a complete jackass.'"

"Now, Eddie Gilbert and Dick Murdoch are unique," Williams continued. "They could have done either one of those things and ended up with the same result. But they didn't. Instead, they got together and decided to break my arm, which was, to me, their way of saying, 'Mr. Williams, we want our arms broken, too.' Well, I'm here to tell you that Gilbert and Capt. Redneck will get their wish. I will break their arms or quit!"

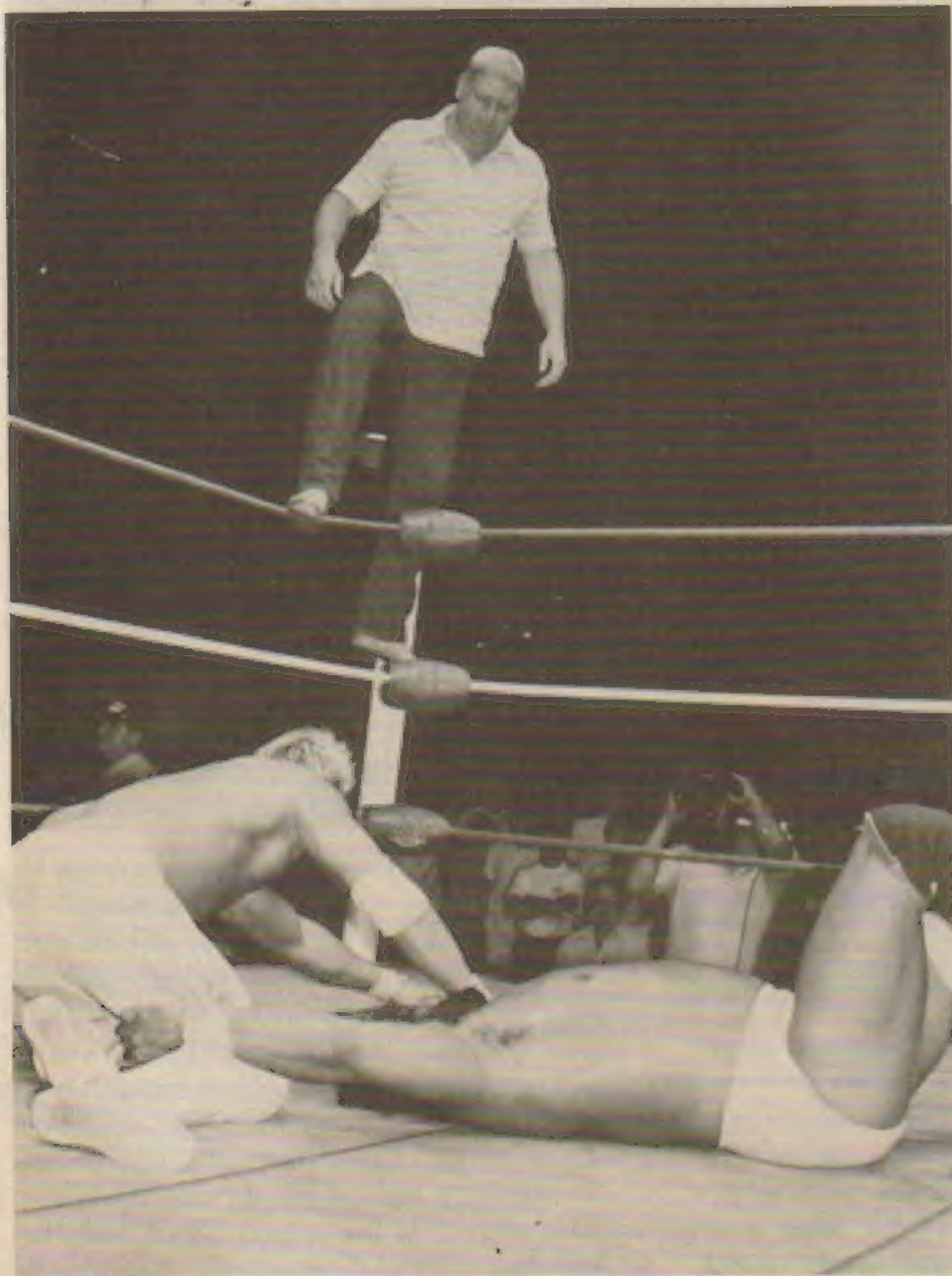
With those words, he slammed his right fist onto the table. The vibration from the impact shook the walls of the locker room and caught everyone's attention. He then held up his injured left arm, still covered in a thick cast, and pointed at a reporter.

"You go talk to Gilbert and Murdoch, and you tell them that I'm gonna get them!" howled Williams, his voice booming. "You tell them that 'Dr. Death' has never backed down



**“I WILL BREAK
GILBERT & MURDOCH’S
ARMS—OR QUIT!”**

Eddie Gilbert and Dick Murdoch were playing with fire when they combined to break Steve Williams' left arm. Now, "Dr. Death" has vowed revenge by the only law he knows: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth—and two arms for an arm!



As Eddie Gilbert slides a chair under Steve Williams' arm, Dick Murdoch mounts the top turnbuckle. Murdoch jumped onto "Dr. Death's" arm several times and broke it. Williams says the only way to get revenge is to break both Murdoch and Gilbert's arms.

from a challenge, and tell them that I took what they did as a personal challenge. You tell them that I might have a broken arm, but I'm not a broken man. I'm gonna kick their butts!"

He stalked out of the room and slammed the door shut. Who knew where he was going? Perhaps he was trying to stake out Gilbert and Murdoch so that he could settle the score

on the spot. More likely, however, he was looking for a way to vent his anger. Williams has always used the wrestling ring to express his feelings. Now, with a return to the ring weeks—and possibly months—away, Williams has been left looking for another outlet.

Never before has the man known as "Dr. Death" been so frustrated. A few years ago, when 108 stitches were re-

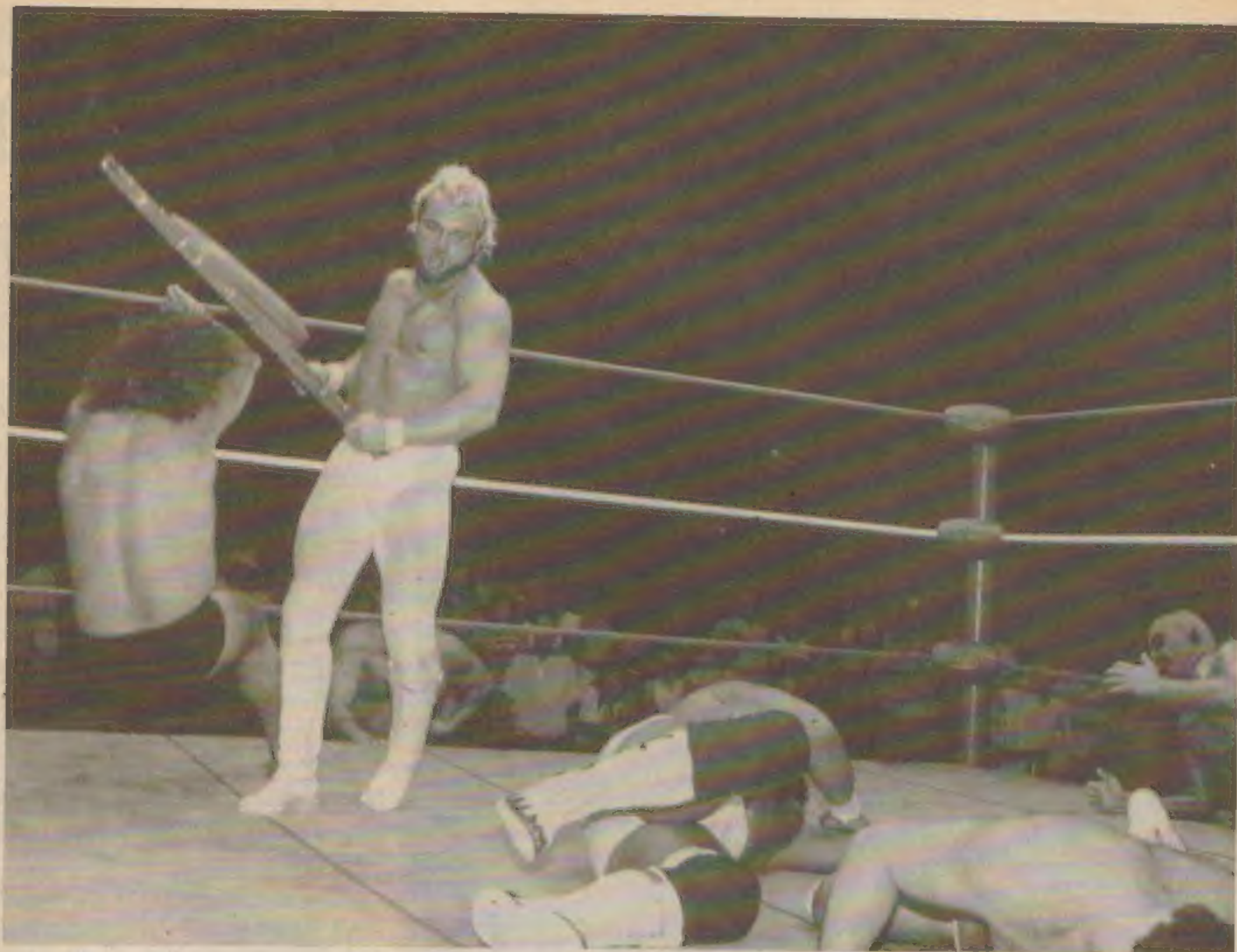
quired to close a severe eye injury, Williams proclaimed, "Sew me up, Doc, I've got a match tonight." He wrestled that very same evening. But with his latest injury, Williams is under strict doctor's orders to remain out of the ring. In fact, UWF officials will not allow him to return until the cast is removed, properly noting that it could be used to injure an opponent.

But Williams scoffs at this idea. "Casts? For what I'm gonna do to those two guys, I don't need casts," Williams growled. "I can respect an opponent who wrestles me one on one and injures me with his own two hands. But when guys like Gilbert and Murdoch double-team me and then bring a chair into the ring, I draw the line. That doesn't make them men. That makes them cowards!"

The arm-breaking incident took place during a match between Gilbert and Williams on May 17 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Gilbert dove at Williams from the top rope, but "Dr. Death" caught Gilbert and rolled him over for the pin. The referee started to give the three-count, but it strangely appeared as if Gilbert was holding Williams on top of him instead of trying to escape.

Murdoch, who is Gilbert's coach and adviser, ran into the ring with a chair at the one-count and slammed it on Williams' back. Gilbert and Murdoch then double-teamed Williams and began working on his left arm. While Murdoch climbed to the top of the turnbuckle, Gilbert slid the chair up Williams' left arm. Murdoch jumped off the turnbuckle and came down hard on the chair several times.

The sickening sound of the bone cracking in Williams' arm could be heard in the first few rows of seats. It was immediately obvious that "Dr. Death" had suffered a serious injury. By the time Barry Windham, Brad Armstrong, Tim Horner, and several other wrestlers ran into the ring to



Gilbert clears the ring after he and Murdoch broke Williams' arm (above). He tries to put "Dr. Death" out with a sleeper (left). Williams reluctantly took his doctor's advice to stay out of action for a month. He says Gilbert and Murdoch may think they've gotten rid of him, but they haven't.

help, it was too late. Later, X-rays revealed that Williams had suffered a broken left arm.

"The break is severe and will require plenty of rest," said Williams' physician. "It will require that Mr. Williams stay out of the ring and the training room for at least a month. While this injury is by no means career threatening, it could be if Mr. Williams does not follow my orders precisely."

For a few days after the injury, Williams insisted that he would return. He obviously couldn't bear to sit quietly while Gilbert and Murdoch went on with their business. It was a slap in the face. Staying out of the ring meant that Gilbert and Murdoch had been successful.

Eventually, Williams realized that his time would come. "Gilbert's got no place to go and there ain't no place left that even wants Murdoch," said Williams. "Soon, this arm of mine'll be back to normal and I'll be ready to kick some butt. I was brought up to believe an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Those guys broke my arm. I'll break theirs. It's only fair."

On the surface, Gilbert and Murdoch are not worried. "Let him say what he wants," said Gilbert. "What we did to him before we'll do again. Williams has always said that nobody can keep him out of the ring. Well, we did. And when he comes back, we'll break his *right* arm. He says he's gonna retire if he can't break our arms? Well, where's the party?"

Bold words, to be sure. But it remains to be seen whether Gilbert and Murdoch will be so bold the next time they meet "Dr. Death" in the wrestling ring. Steve Williams is much too young to retire. □

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

PRESS CONFERENCE THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS have never been angrier. Since Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels formed a tag team in early 1986, they have been robbed of the AWA World tag team title by Buddy Rose and Doug Somers, attacked by valet Sherri Martel, and had the belts taken away from them by AWA officials. But nothing could match the way they feel about Stanislaus Ustinov and Boris Zukhov.

Never mind that Zukhov and Ustinov defeated the Rockers for the AWA tag belts on May 25 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Although Jannetty and Michaels have earned a reputation as fun-loving partyers, they're mature enough to know that losing is a part of professional wrestling. They could accept losing the belts because they knew they would have a chance to win them back.

But they won't have a chance, and that's why they're mad. After winning the title, Zukhov and Ustinov told reporters that they would not grant the Rockers a rematch. This



On May 25, The Midnight Rockers lost the AWA World tag team title to Boris Zukhov and Stanislaus Ustinov. The Russians refused to give the Rockers a rematch.



Jannetty: "One of the most attractive aspects of going to the WWF would be knowing that we could beat [Hart and Neidhart]."



Michaels: "Marty and I have spent a lot of time forming our own image. I think we can stand on our own."

announcement shocked the wrestling world. Upon hearing this news, Jannetty and Michaels petitioned AWA officials, but nothing could be done. They appealed to the Russians' sense of fair play, not realizing that the Russians don't believe in fair play. Finally, the Rockers realized that they were helpless.

But professional wrestling operates in a free-market system, and at the time of this interview, there were strong rumors circulating that Jannetty and Michaels were considering a move to the WWF. Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks, Managing Editor Craig Peters, Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum, and Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez traveled to St. Paul, Minnesota, to speak with the Rockers about these new developments.

STU SAKS: Let's get right to the point, guys. You're pretty mad about all that's happened aren't you?

MARTY JANNETTY: Well, wouldn't you be? You'd better believe we're mad, and I'll tell you why. It's not that



Shawn Michaels beats on Zukhov. Because they couldn't get a return match, the Rockers seriously considered a move to the WWF.

we lost the belts. That's not it at all, right Shawn?

SHAWN MICHAELS: That's right, partner. We can handle losing. That's just

part of life. You know, in sports, everybody wins and loses every once in a while. Look at the New York Mets. They were the best team in baseball last year, but this year they're having their troubles. But they're too good to be down and you know they'll bounce back again. Well, we would've bounced back, just like we always have.

CRAIG PETERS: So it wasn't the losing, was it? It was what happened after you guys lost the belts.

JANNETTY: Exactly, Craig. Let me let you in on something I said to Shawn after we lost the belts. Shawn was pretty down, and I said to him, "Buddy, don't worry about it. We'll get a rematch and get the belts back." The next thing I know, a slew of reporters comes into the dressing room and tells us that Zukhov and Ustinov won't give us a rematch. We couldn't believe it.

MICHAELS: I told those reporters that they had to be kidding. Then [AWA President Stanley] Blackburn came into the dressing room to congratulate us

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DUMP THE HORSEMEN, FLAIR— A TRUE CHAMPION STANDS ON HIS OWN!



Although Ric Flair is universally recognized as one of the greatest wrestlers in the world, respect for his NWA World title reign is diminishing by the day. If Flair doesn't get rid of The Four Horsemen, he'll soon be a forgotten champion

NEVER BEFORE IN the history of professional wrestling has a world champion come under so much fire. It is a favorite pastime of wrestling fans to hold a magnifying glass over the career of Ric Flair and examine every detail of his championship reign. But, for good reason, they do not take pleasure in this task.

Wrestling fans know that the NWA World championship is one of the most prized achievements in the sporting world, on a par with such glories as the Super Bowl, the World Series, and the Stanley Cup. But while those are team awards, the NWA World championship belt represents spectacular achievement by a *singular* athlete. The man who holds the belt must have an unblemished record. The integrity of the sport demands it.

Since 1981, Flair has held the belt four times while virtually dominating the National Wrestling Alliance. He has impressed nearly everyone with his perseverance and unquestionable wrestling skills. His figure-four leglock is one of the most feared holds in wrestling. He is an outstanding athlete and an incredible performer.

But he will not be remembered alongside former NWA kingpins such as Harley Race, Lou Thesz, Buddy Rogers, Jack Brisco, and Dory Funk Jr. That is the opinion of the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, which has expended more time and energy chronicling Flair's championship reign than any other newspaper or magazine. Our conclusion is simple: Flair must get rid of The Four Horsemen. A true champion stands on his own!

Never before has this been more obvious. The "PWI Poll" in the September issue of *PWI* examined, among other things, Flair's relationship with Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, Lex Luger, and J.J. Dillon. And while an overwhelming 63 percent said that Flair was the



The Four Horsemen and J.J. Dillon give Tony Schiavone another long-winded interview (opposite page). Arn Anderson and Ric Flair double-team Ronnie Garvin (above). Flair hits Dusty Rhodes with a cowbell as Tully Blanchard joins in (below). The Horsemen are disgracing Flair's World title reign.



best of the Horsemen, an incredible 68 percent felt that his title reign was tainted by his association with these cunning bad men. Only 32 percent said that they respected The Four Horsemen as professional wrestlers.

"I was shocked by the results," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "While I have always realized that the majority of fans dislike the Horsemen, I always felt that they respected their wrestling ability. To see these results makes it very plain to me that Flair should ditch the Horsemen. There's no reason why an incredible title reign should be tainted by those troublemakers."

Flair's allies have made a habit of interfering in his matches. When Flair wrestles, Dillon, Blanchard, Anderson, or Luger—and sometimes two, three, or all four!—wait in the wings, ready to run into the ring when the champion gets into trouble. It has become a common, and quite repulsive, part of Flair's title reign.

Unfortunately, Flair encourages their actions. On several occasions, when he has been in severe danger of losing his precious belt, Flair has even signaled them to the ring. Incredibly, he doesn't seem to realize that by doing this he is devaluing the prize he holds so dearly. A title is only as valuable as its owner and the quality of that owner's title defenses.

Take the WWF World title, for example. Hulk Hogan rarely gets himself disqualified. His matches are almost always fought to a conclusion. Other wrestlers rarely interfere on Hogan's behalf. He doesn't need outside help. Hogan has proven time and again that he is fully capable of handling his own matters. As a result, the value of the WWF belt has only increased over the past 3½ years.

But how many times has Flair retained the championship either by getting himself disqualified or through outside help? Even his



Flair and Blanchard back off as Road Warrior Hawk stands over Nikita Koloff (above). The champion jumps in to save Blanchard from Nikita's crunching bearhug (below). In too many title matches, Flair has used the Horsemen to save his hide. Would Flair win the big matches on his own?



pinfalls are usually earned through illegal means: a foot on the rope, a knocked out referee, the help of the Horsemen, etc. Is it any wonder

that his title reign has come under such criticism?

Naturally, though, Flair has quick
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Hulk Hogan vs. Rick Steamboat:

THE MATCH THAT MUST BE MADE



They're the two greatest stars in the WWF: World champion Hulk Hogan and Intercontinental champion Rick Steamboat. Both are beloved fan favorites, but it's only a matter of time before they meet in the ring. Hogan vs. Steamboat is a necessity!

HULK HOGAN VS. Rick Steamboat. Before you dismiss the idea as preposterous, before you cry out that it can never happen and proclaim that the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* have gone out of their minds, we call your attention to a story that appeared in the September 1986 issue of our sister publication *Inside Wrestling* entitled "Andre's Career At The Crossroads: Hulk Hogan Will Soon Feel The Giant's Rage!"

That article, which appeared a

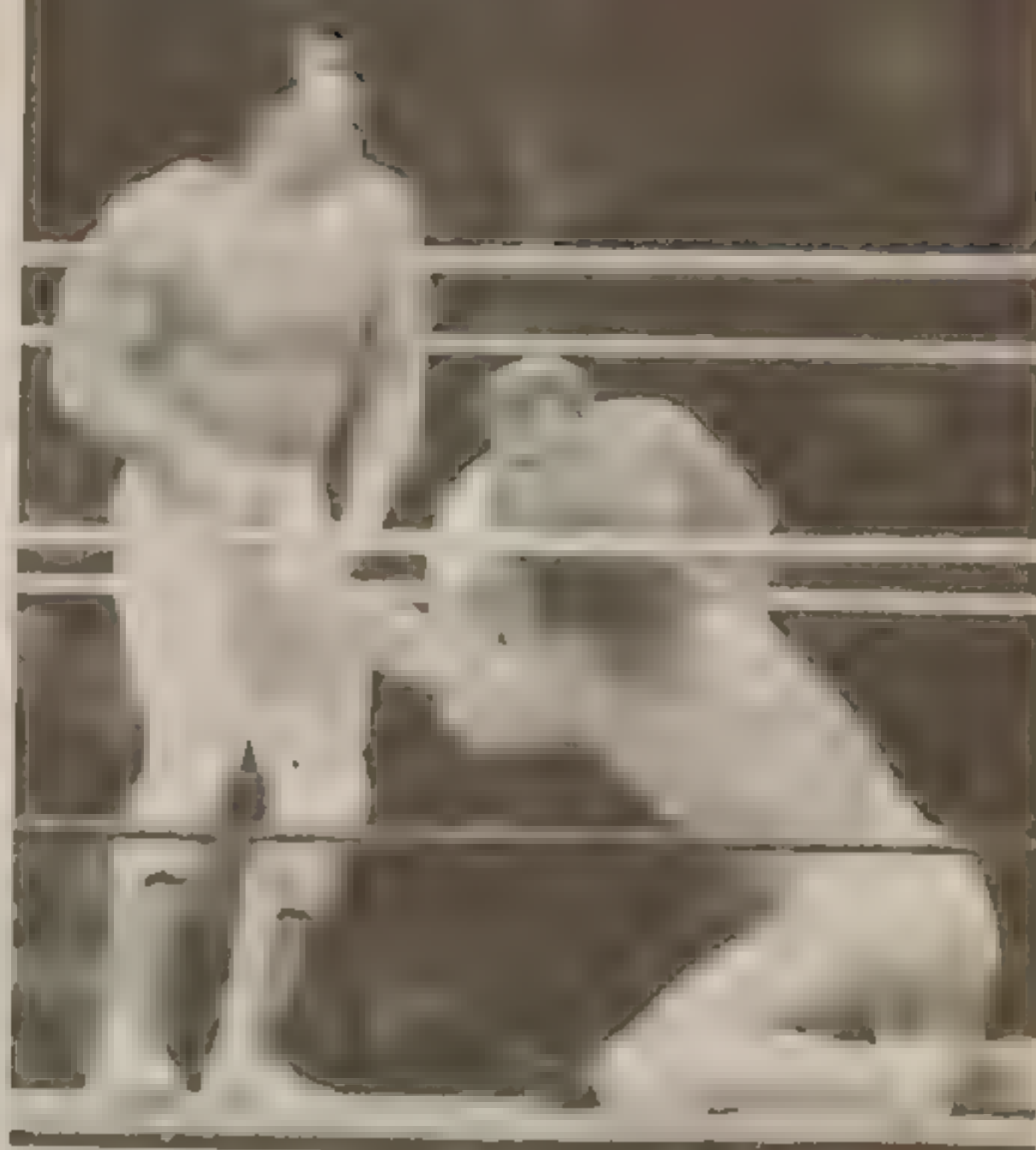
little more than a year ago, was the first indication to wrestling fans that best friends Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan were headed for a confrontation. Although many readers agreed with our reasoning, most said that it could never happen. On March 29, 1987, in the Pontiac Silverdome, Andre and Hogan went head to head at WrestleMania III.

Back when we first printed that article, we conceded that the idea of a Hogan-Andre match was a little farfetched. But there was valid

reasoning behind our prognostication, just as there is in this case. So don't forget: You read it here first!

Our analysis is a twofold one. There are reasons why it *must* happen. Then, there are reasons why it *will* happen, why a meeting between the WWF World and Intercontinental champions might be just a few steps down the road. Read on and judge for yourself. Perhaps you will reach the same conclusion that we did. And then again, maybe you'll decide that we are, in-

Photos by David Fitzgerald



Hulk Hogan sends Kamala to his knees (left), Rick Steamboat twists Randy Savage's arm during their title match at WrestleMania III (above). Steamboat and Hogan prepare for a tag team match (below), "The Dragon's" desire for a World title, plus "The Hulkster's" need for a scientific challenge, will lead to a match between them.

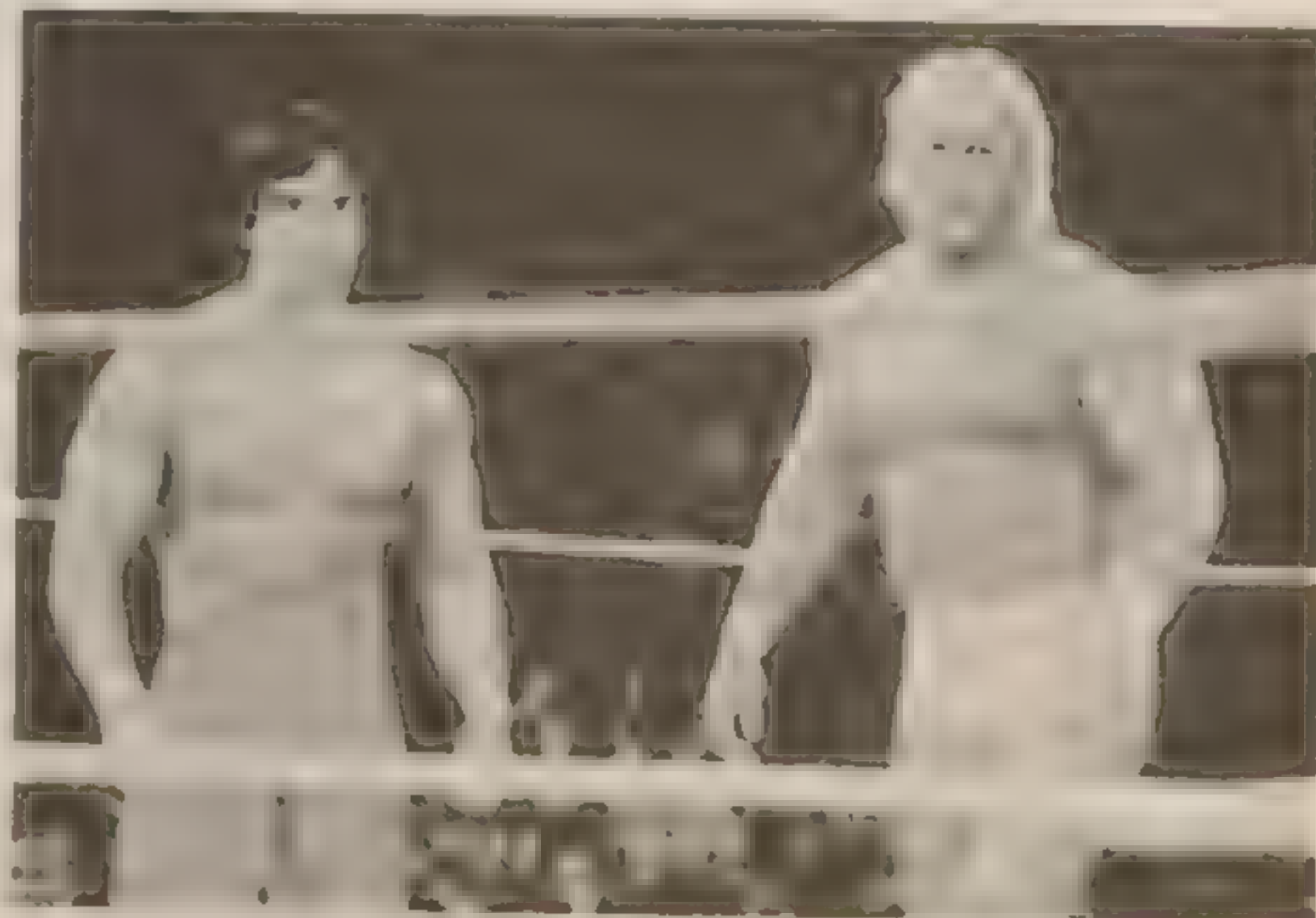
deed, just a little out of our minds

First, why it *must* happen:

●Hulk Hogan has exhausted all possible competition. After pinning Andre at WrestleMania III, Hogan found himself in an unusual position. He had defeated all of his major challengers, including superstars Paul Orndorff, Randy Savage, Hercules Hernandez, and Andre. Recently, he has been wrestling Harley Race, but Race is far past his prime. Although he has made it a point not to wrestle scientific opponents, Hogan hardly has a choice anymore

●Rick Steamboat has exhausted all possible competition ... except for Savage. And while the Steamboat-Savage bouts have been anything but dull, they are threatening to get repetitive. How many times can Steamboat wrestle Savage? Isn't there any other competition for him in the WWF?

●Steamboat privately desires the WWF World championship belt. "It is his dream to win the World title," said one friend of Steamboat's. "He just won't say anything because



he's such good friends with Hogan and he doesn't want to hurt their relationship. But can you show me one wrestler in the entire world who *wouldn't* want a shot at the big title? There's just no such thing. They all want it.'

●Hogan privately desires a shot at Steamboat. While Hogan has firmly established himself as one of the greatest stars in wrestling and

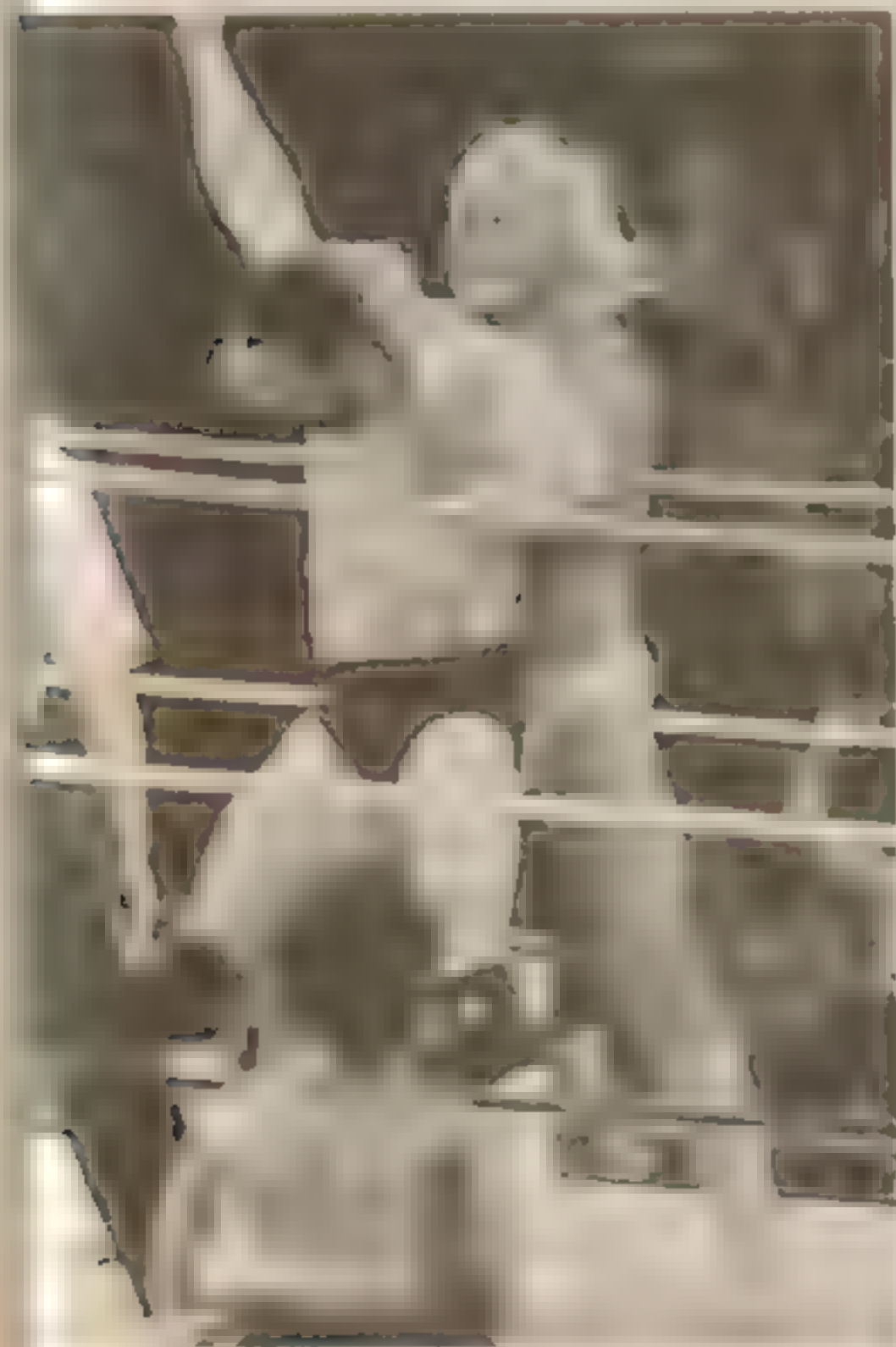
has earned his niche among past WWF World champions, he is still criticized by experts and fans for not wrestling scientific opponents. It is the only knock against Hogan and, thus far, it is a viable criticism. By wrestling Steamboat, he would have the chance to defeat one of the greatest scientific wrestlers in the world. The Hogan legend would grow, just as it did after he

beat Andre.

●The fans want a Steamboat-Hogan match. It is a dream match, something you'd only expect to see on the pages of *Wrestling Superstars*, a clash of the WWF's two greatest stars. Steamboat would push Hogan to the limit; "The Hulkster" has never met a wrestler with Steamboat's abilities. Likewise, Hogan would push Steamboat to the limit. The match would draw a sellout crowd to any arena in North America.

Now, why the match will happen:

●Money. The WWF is desperately searching for a major attraction, having exhausted its resources with *WrestleMania III*. The fans have not come out in large numbers to see Hogan defend his belt



against Race. The Savage-Steamboat feud is beginning to lose steam. The Can-Am Connection's drawing power is limited by their lack of a title. The only big match left in the WWF is Steamboat vs. Hogan. The post-*WrestleMania* cooling-off period historically has a drastic effect on the live gate. This year has not been different. Hogan-Steamboat would get the ball roll-



The champion puts the full-nelson on Hercules Hernandez (left). Steamboat headlocks Harley Race (above). If a match between Hogan and Steamboat seems farfetched, remember that a year ago no one thought a bout between Hogan and Andre the Giant would be possible.

ing again in a big way.

●The recent drug-related arrests of Hacksaw Duggan and The Iron Sheik severely damaged the WWF's image. The WWF was embarrassed. The story appeared on TV and radio stations and in newspapers across the country. Steamboat and Hogan have always represented the best the WWF has to offer. They are the WWF's goodwill ambassadors. The point is simple: A Steamboat-Hogan feud is not essential. They don't have to hate each other in order to wrestle each other. All they must be is two good, honest wrestlers in fair competition.

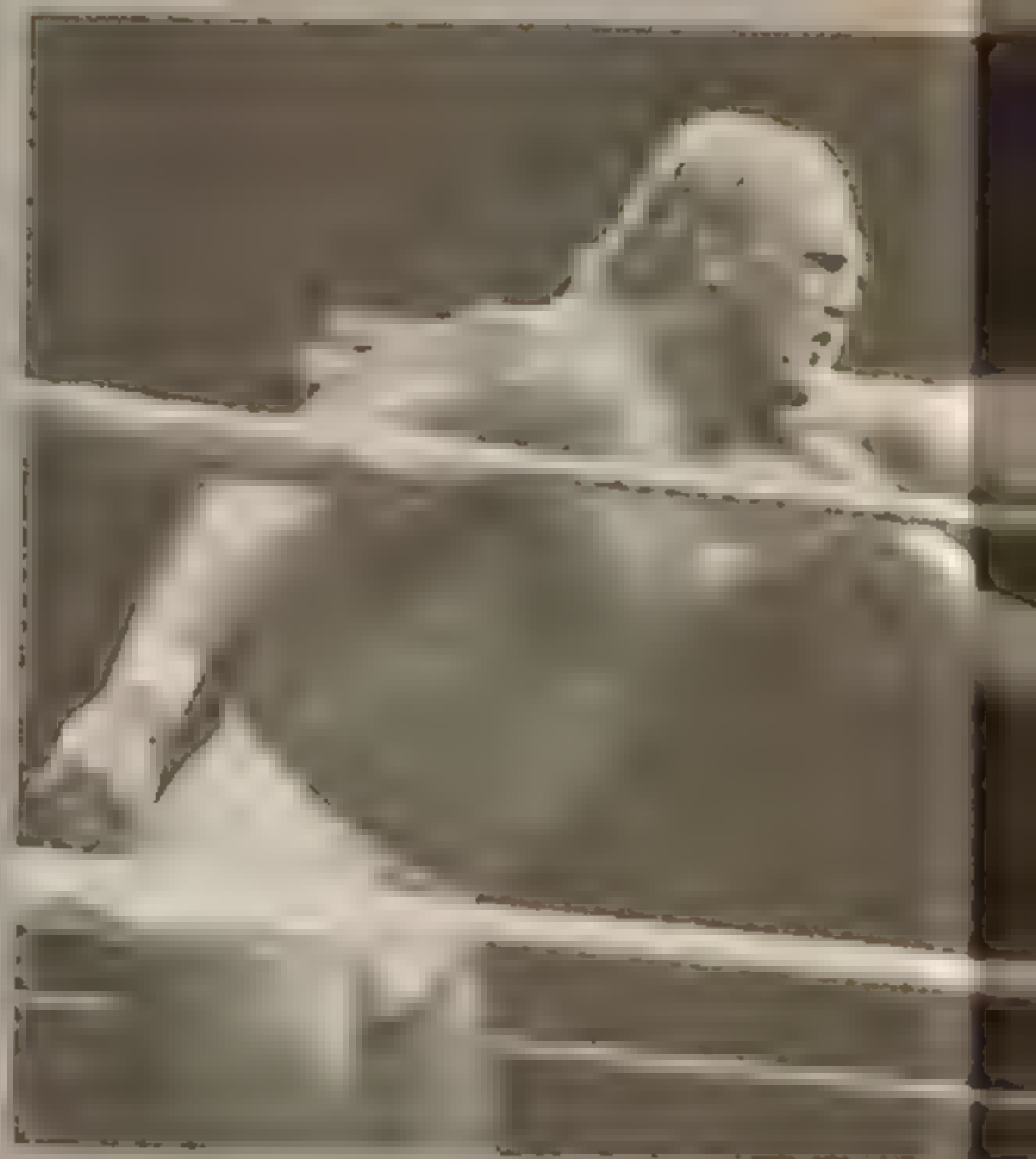
●For all of the reasons why it *must* happen, it *will* happen. There is too much at stake for this to

pass. Hogan wants Steamboat. Steamboat wants Hogan. They are outstanding athletes, which also means they are fierce competitors. The time will eventually come when both men will break down and demand the match. And if Hogan will not give Steamboat a shot at the World title, only one thing can happen: Steamboat will turn on Hogan, just like Andre did. And Orndorff before Andre.

There can be no other way. It is human nature. Every wrestler wants to be number one. That's the battle Steamboat and Hogan are quietly waging outside of the ring. Right now it's a friendly battle. But but how long can it remain that way? □

NWA & WWF Gain Momentum:

IS WRESTLING HEADED TOWARD A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM?



PONTIAC, MICHIGAN: Wrestlemania III draws more than 93,000 fans to the Silverdome, setting a new attendance record for any indoor event of any kind.

Baltimore, Maryland: Twenty-four teams vie for \$1 million at the second annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament. The two-day event attracts serious wrestling fans from across the country.

Toronto, Ontario: Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff headlines a card at Exhibition Stadium attended by more than 70,000 people.

Greensboro, North Carolina/Atlanta, Georgia: Starrcade '86 surpasses itself once again. In its fourth year, Starrcade has become a Thanksgiving tradition.

(There's a pattern here: WWF NWA ... WWF ... NWA. Are these federations the only two that really mean anything? After all, they do have many of the sport's best wrestlers, they draw the biggest crowds



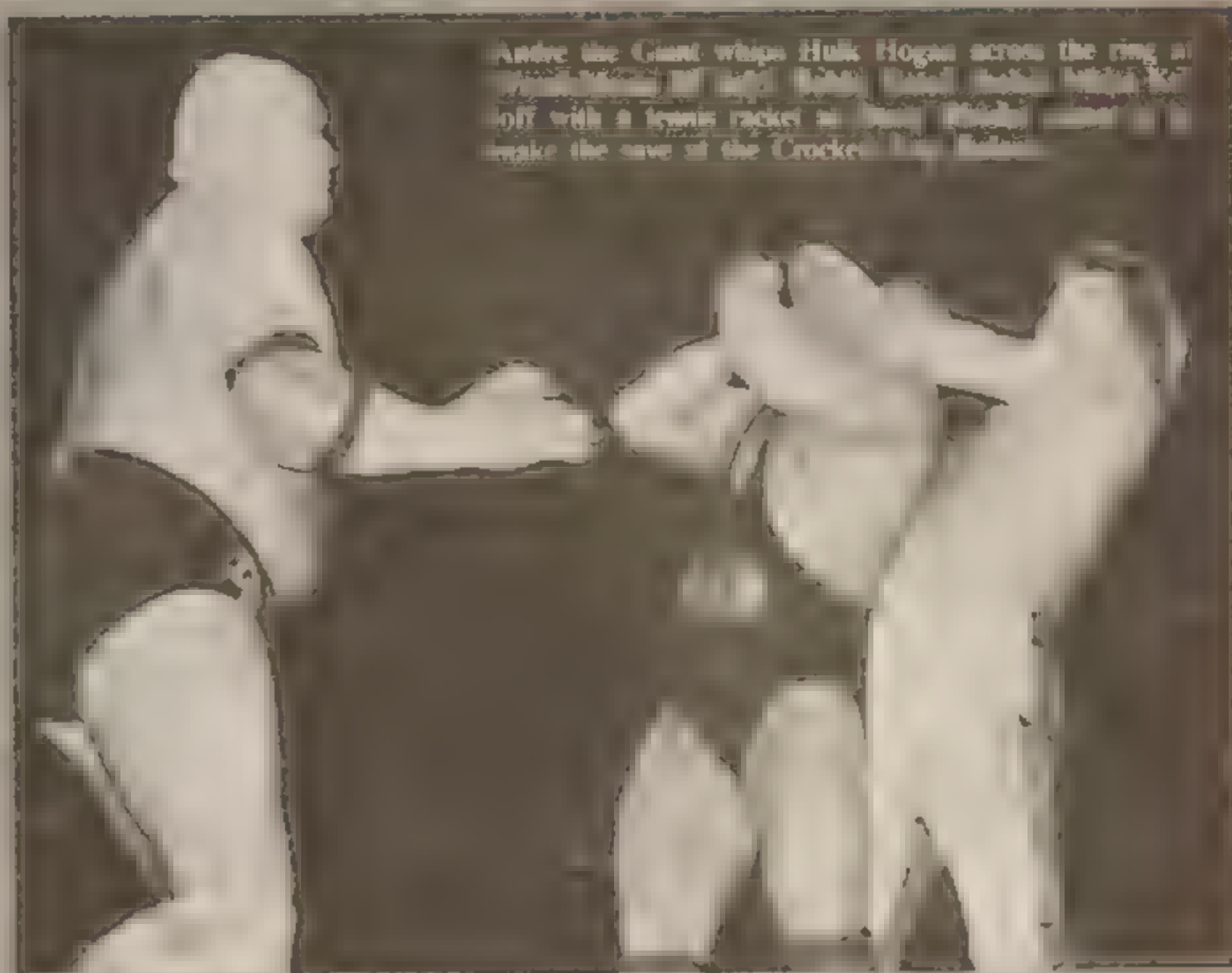
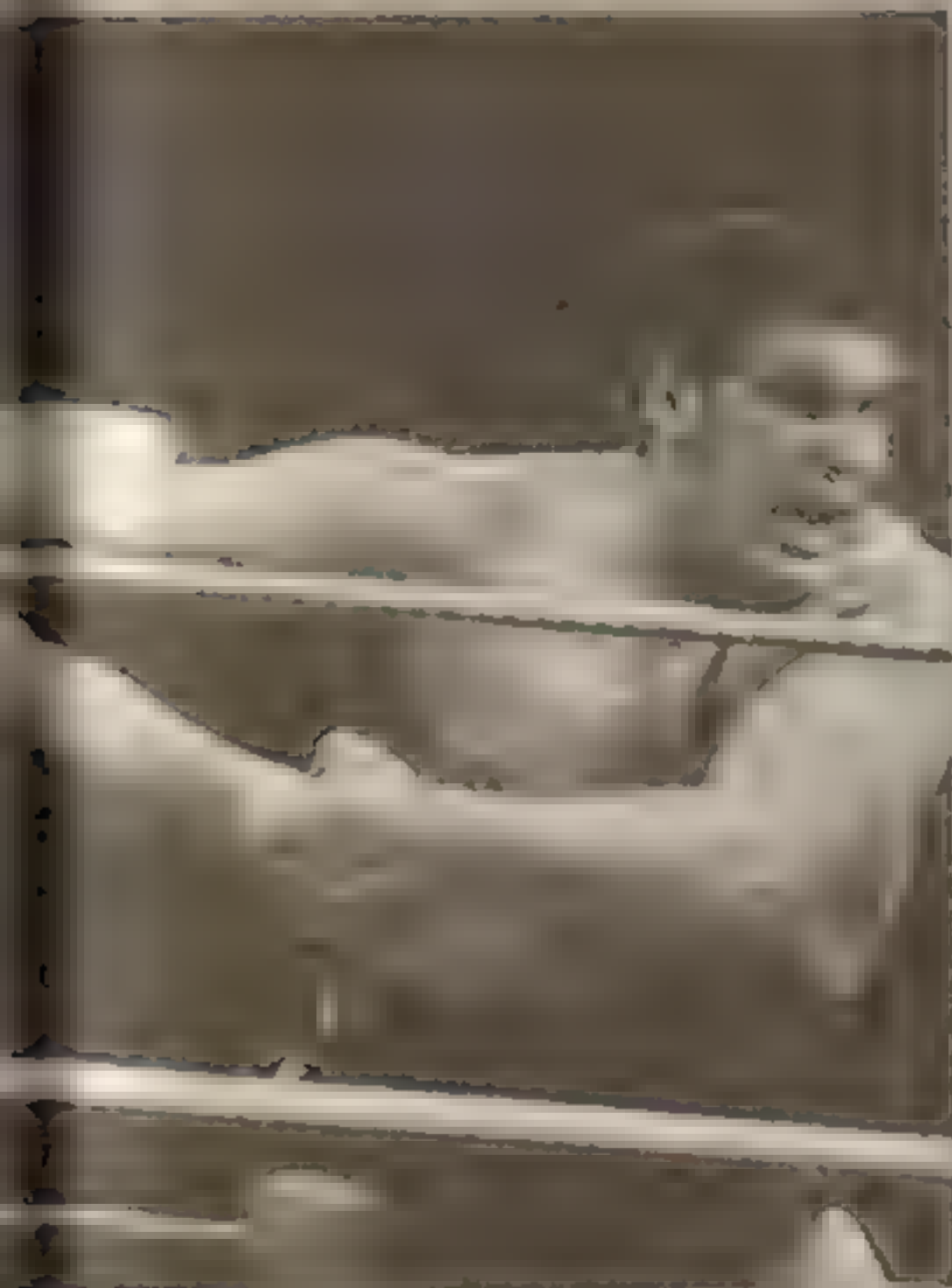
Sgt. Slaughter rips Abdullah the Butcher with a foreign object. Slaughter and Abdullah wrestle for the National Wrestling Federation, a small but thriving promotion.

and they pay out the highest purses.)

Memphis, Tennessee: The Mid-South Coliseum is sold out for a hair vs. hair cage match between Jerry Lawler and Austin Idol. There is almost a riot when "The King" loses. Ask these fans where the best wrestling is and they'll most likely tell you it's right in their town.

It's a fact that wrestling's two top promotions, the WWF and the NWA, are strong and growing stronger. But it's also a fact that many smaller promotions are still in existence and are, in many cases, thriving.

Wrestling in the Mid-Southern area, based out of Memphis, is every bit as entertaining, if not more so, than wrestling in the WWF and NWA, according to promoter Eddie Marlin. "We don't want to be that big," Marlin insists. "We prefer to concentrate on the Memphis area. We know exactly what type of wrestling the fans want, and we give it to



Just as the Democrats and the Republicans dominate the American political landscape, the WWF and the NWA are threatening to dominate the American wrestling scene. But don't tell that to the other promotions, who are proving every day that bigger is not necessarily better

them. Memphis fans aren't interested in a corporate image or slick productions. They like good home cooking, and we cater to their tastes. Larger promotions have tried to expand into Memphis, and the fans sent them packing."

There are many organizations smaller than the NWA and WWF that are doing well. Stampede Wrestling in Calgary, Alberta, features promising stars such as North American champion Owen Hart, Kerry Brown, and Johnny Smith. Stampede was a proving ground for WWF tag team champions Brett Hart and Jim Neidhart, and former champs The British Bulldogs.

The Pacific Northwest area has brought many of this decade's top stars to their earliest prominence, including Roddy Piper, Billy Jack Haynes, Curt Hennig, Jimmy Snuka, Lance Von Erich, Jesse Ventura, and Tom Zenk.

Sgt. Slaughter is currently the



Billy Jack Haynes ducks a punch thrown by Rip Oliver, the Pacific Northwest champion. Both Haynes and Oliver, as well as many other top stars, got their start in the Northwest.

champion of the newly formed United States Wrestling Alliance, which holds a lot of matches for charity. "I haven't wrestled in the WWF for a few years now," said Slaughter, who has also wrestled for the Northeast-based National Wrestling Federation, "and I'm still world famous. I'm not saying I would never wrestle in the WWF again, but it's not a life-or-death situation."

Until recently, the smaller promotions didn't have to worry about being swallowed up by the larger groups. Until a few years ago, there was a level of parity in the sport. The WWF promoted in the Northeast, Jim Crockett in the Mid-Atlantic region, the AWA in the Midwest, and so on. It was informally agreed that no promoter would intrude on another's territory.

That all changed when Vince McMahon Jr. took over the WWF from his father in the early 1980s. He expanded the federation nationwide,

using extremely aggressive promotional techniques and giving the WWF a flashy style never before seen in pro wrestling. WWF World champion Hulk Hogan became more than a wrestling star, he was a media sensation. It was a bit of a shock to the more traditional promoters, who realized they would have to adapt to a new way of doing things or be swept aside.

Jim Crockett Jr., the most powerful NWA promoter, responded to the challenge. His Mid-Atlantic promotion expanded into Georgia in 1985 and later began promoting nationwide. Recently, he has reached co-promotional agreements with both Florida and the UWF. Today, Crockett stands a solid second to McMahon.

Persistent as they may be, no oth-

Nick Bockwinkel ambars Jerry Lawler (above). Bockwinkel wrestles frequently in the Mid-Southern area, where Lawler is a mainstay. Owen Hart, Stampede Wrestling's North American champion controls Cuban Assassin (below). Based in Calgary, Alberta, Stampede has a lot of highbumping action.



er promotion has come close to the WWF or Crockett. The AWA has national television exposure on ESPN and boasts the sport's third world championship, but does not have the number of good wrestlers or the crowd appeal that the "Big Two" do. World Class wrestling has done some promoting in the Northeast, and in foreign countries such as Israel, but, like the AWA, they have had trouble maintaining a complete roster of star wrestlers.

The domination of McMahon and Crockett is best reflected in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Top 10 ratings. In our September 1987 issue, eight of the 10 spots were occupied by McMahon or Crockett wrestlers: three from the WWF (Hulk Hogan, Rick Steamboat, Randy Savage) and five from the NWA and UWF (Ric Flair, Nikita Koloff, Barry Windham, Lex Luger, and Steve Williams).

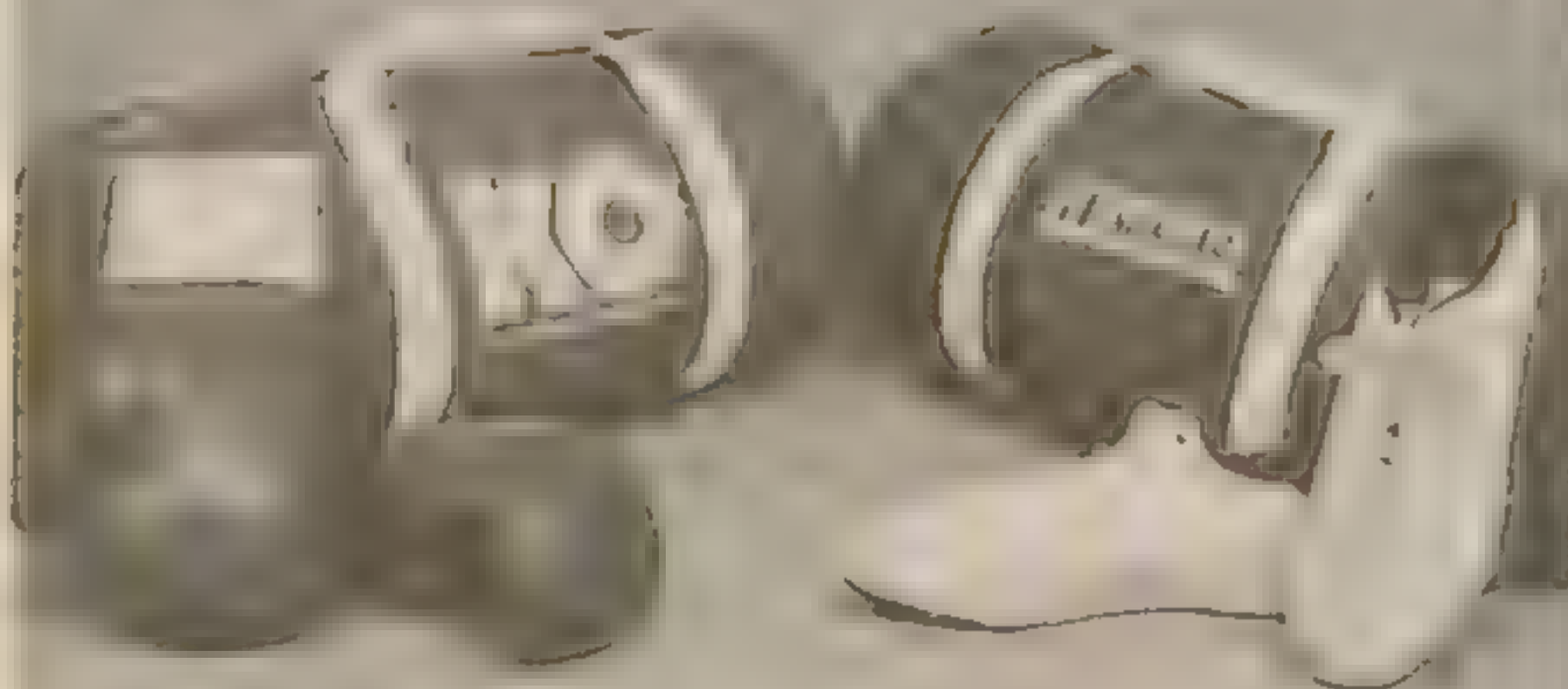
That preeminence may not last forever. Just a few short years ago, the AWA and World Class areas were doing extremely well. World Class drew over 43,000 fans to Texas Stadium in 1984 and the AWA attracted 22,000 fans to WrestleRock 86. It has been proven time and again in wrestling that where there were once crowds there can be crowds again.

Aside from doing well on their own, the small promotions are the breeding grounds for new, young talent. Virtually all of today's top stars started their careers wrestling in the smaller arenas. Stardom on the college mat circuit or on the football field doesn't guarantee a spot on a big-time roster. There's got to be a place where tomorrow's stars pay their dues.

The two-party system may rule American politics, but rest assured it doesn't rule professional wrestling. If there are any doubters, the smaller promotions could quiet them by paraphrasing the famous Mark Twain line:

"The reports of our death," they might say, "have been greatly exaggerated." □

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FLAIR

(Continued from page 34)

answers to these charges. "Ric Flair, NWA World champion, has never needed anybody's help to remain what he has always been, the number-one professional wrestler in the entire world," he said. "I have done for this belt what no other man could do. I have made it recognized around the globe, I have defended it against more challengers than any other champion. I am the one and only, stylin' and profilin', and ready to rumble, daddy. Whoo!"

The sad truth is that Flair's opinion of himself is not shared by the fans. "What kind of champion has to depend on his friends just so that he can keep the title?" asked Charlie Rasmussen of Charlotte, North Carolina, one of the people questioned in our "PWI Poll." "Dusty Rhodes could still have the belt right now if he depended on outside interference, but he wanted to defend it on his own. Flair might have the title, but Rhodes has his honor. I think that's more important."

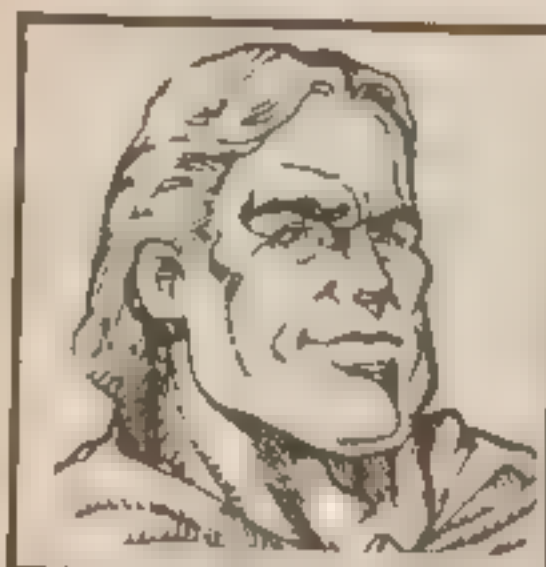
The NWA has the power to do something about the situation but has done nothing to keep the Horsemen away from Flair's title matches. "They must realize that it's their title that's being blemished," said Saks. "But when you really look at the situation, Flair should take the first action. He wants to be remembered as an all-time great, but it just won't happen if this continues. It's unfortunate because Flair is a great wrestler. There's no doubt about that."

But there's plenty of doubt about Flair, the champion. At a time when his legend should be growing, his reputation is steadily shrinking. He's taken a glorious singles trophy and transformed it into a tainted team effort. He's got to dump The Four Horsemen and carve out a championship reputation of his own—now! ☐

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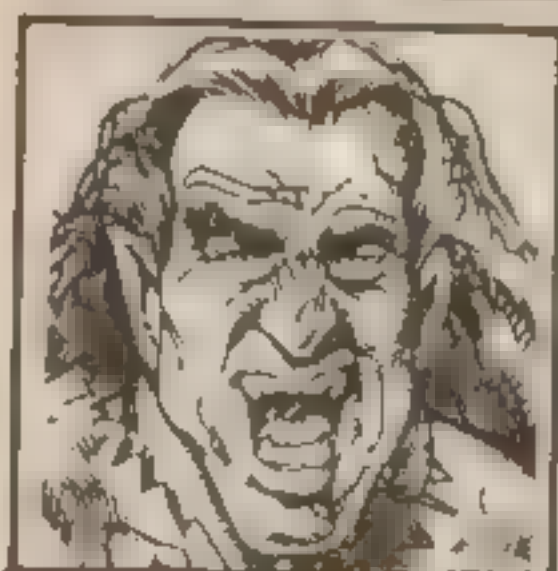


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RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 10)



Dusty Rhodes kicks UWF champion Big Bubba Rogers. Dusty will get several shots at Bubba's title after he recovers from the leg injury inflicted by The Four Horsemen.

tant match. All I can say is that I will get Larry Zbyszko."

Dusty Rhodes is slated for a series of matches against UWF heavyweight champion **Bubba Rogers** when he recovers from the leg injury inflicted by **Tully Blanchard**, **Lex Luger**, **Ric Flair**, **Arn Anderson** and **J.J. Dillon**. By the way, Rhodes' \$100,000 TV title match against Blanchard, the current champ, is still on.

Bulldog Bob Brown lost his Central States title to **Rufus R. Jones**. Brown suffered an eye injury after the match when he was attacked by former friend **Rip Rogers**.

Bad News Allen is back in Calgary and hoping for a shot at North American champion **Owen Hart**.

The post-WrestleMania III period in the World Wrestling Federation has been marked by an influx of new wrestlers. Former UWF champion

One Man Gang, Ted DiBiase, and Bam Bam Bigelow have arrived in the WWF. Also, shortly following this issue's "Press Conference," in which **The Midnight Rockers** hinted that they might jump to the WWF, the former AWA World tag team champions did indeed make the move.

But there has also been an exodus of stars. **Roddy Piper** retired following his match at WrestleMania III, **Missy Hyatt's** scheduled interview segment to replace Piper didn't work out, and she's back in the UWF. And recently, WWF officials announced that **Hacksaw Duggan** and **The Iron Sheik** were "suspended indefinitely pending an investigation into allegations brought forth by the State of New Jersey." Duggan and Sheik were arrested by State police on the afternoon of May 26. Duggan was charged with possession of marijuana and drinking alcohol while driving. Sheik was charged with possession of cocaine and marijuana.

Sheik was arraigned in Middletown Court on June 1 and pleaded guilty to both charges. Duggan will be arraigned at a later date. The story was reported extensively in New York area newspapers and apparently caused tremendous embarrassment to WWF officials.

Gino Brito is mounting a comeback. He made the announcement after **Abdullah the Butcher** seriously injured his son, **Gino Brito Jr.** Brito will wrestle Abdullah throughout Eastern Canada . . . Rumors that **Dingo Warrior** was leaving the World Class area for the WWF have been quelled. The musclemans from Queens, New York, has decided to stay in Texas . . . **Super Ninja** and **Ninja Go** have formed an impressive tag team in the AWA.

Sting and **Chris Adams** are gearing up for a match against **Terry Taylor** and **Eddie Gilbert**. This incredible development—Sting and Gilbert are former partners, as are Taylor and Adams—occurred following a match between Taylor and Sting in Little Rock, Arkansas. While referee

Carl Fergie was reprimanding Sting for an illegal move, Gilbert came to ringside and handed Taylor a boot. When Fergie ordered Gilbert to leave the ring area, Taylor smashed Sting with the boot. Fergie returned to the action just as Taylor was pinning Sting. Later in the evening, Sting agreed to team with Adams in an upcoming match against Taylor and Gilbert.

Kevin Sullivan has been acting very strangely. During a recent interview on **Championship Wrestling From Florida**, Sullivan complained of headaches several times. Then, out of the blue, Sullivan asked **Sir Oliver Humperdink** for his money. A shocked Humperdink tried to change the subject, but Sullivan started rambling about a brown Ford LTD automobile that had been following him. Sullivan's paranoid behavior began a few weeks ago and only seems to be getting worse.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

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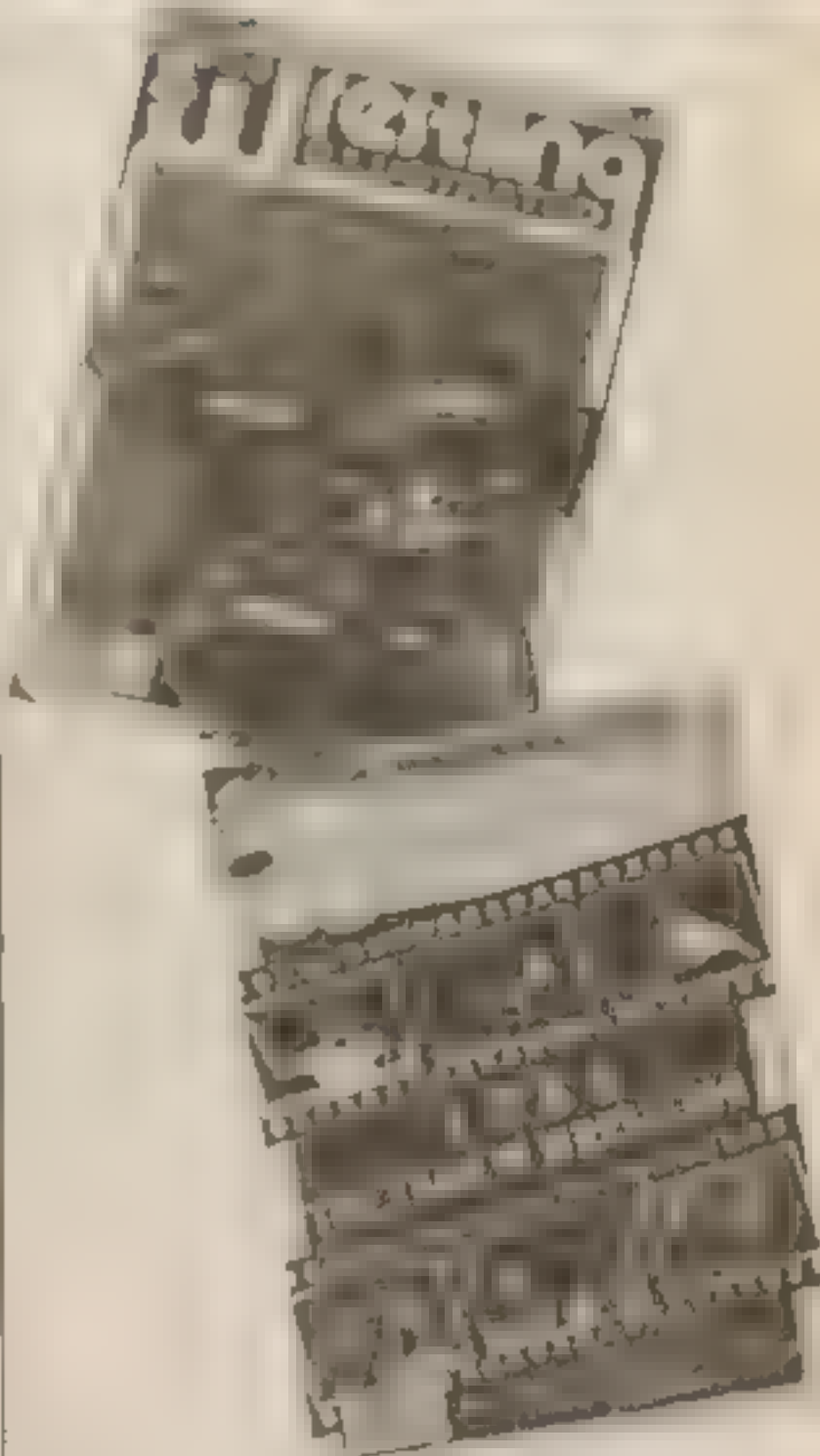
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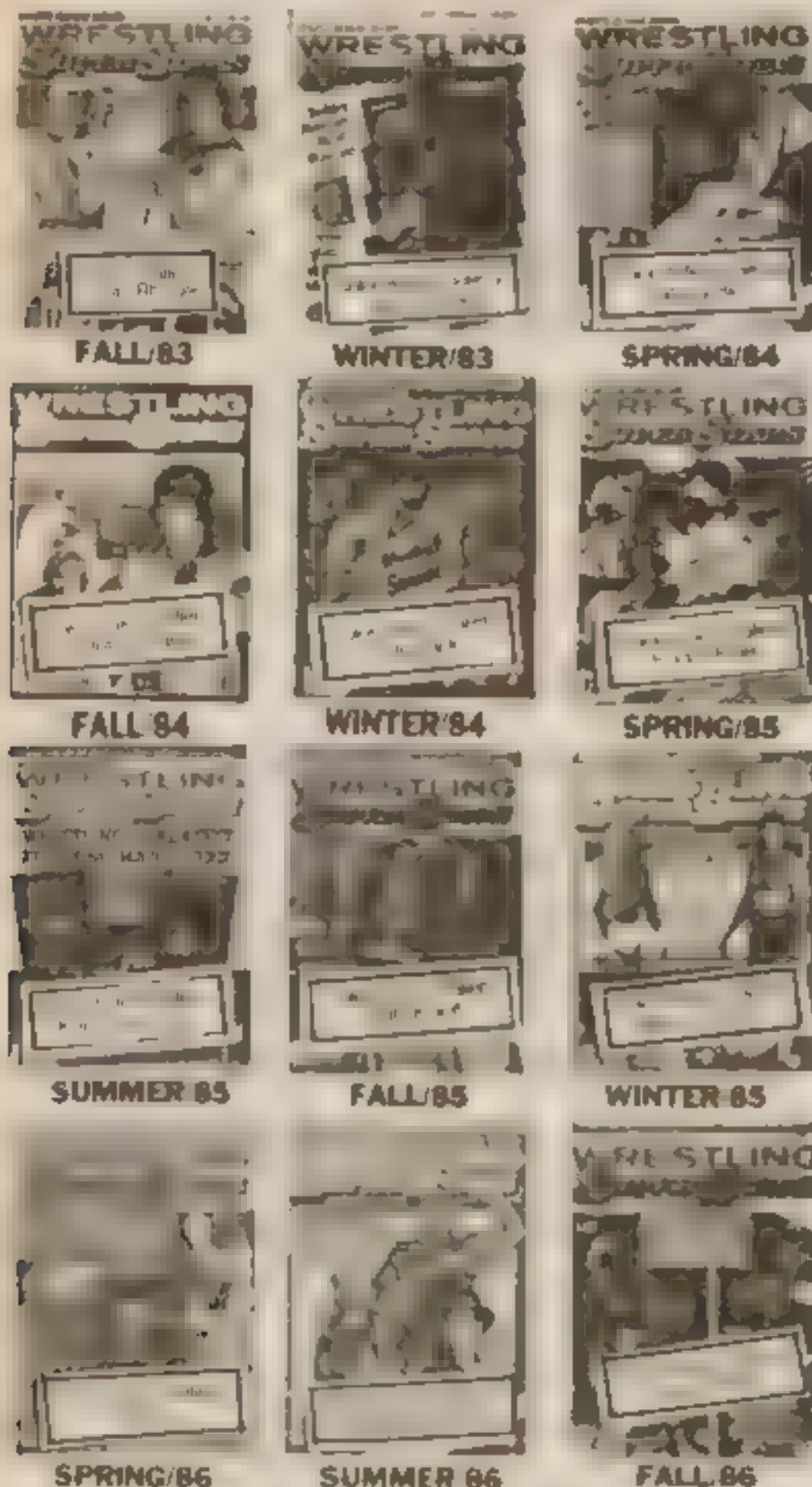
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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 31)

on a great title reign. I told him that he shouldn't be congratulating us yet, because we were gonna win the belts back. That's when he confirmed what the reporters told us.

DAVE ROSENBAUM: You mean that you weren't going to get a title shot? Wasn't there anything Blackburn could do about it?

MICHAELS: I told him that it wasn't fair and he agreed, but then he told me that there's no rule that dictates who the champions have to defend the title against. All the rules say is that they have to defend the belts on a regular basis.

ANDY RODRIGUEZ: But that isn't fair! That's just not the sportsmanlike way to do things! Didn't Ustinov and Zuhov realize that they were devaluing the belts by not defending them against the former champs?

JANNETTY: Apparently not. They just didn't care, and that's the bottom line.

MICHAELS: That's what Marty thinks, but I have this sneaking suspicion that they acted under orders from the Kremlin. You see, me and Marty represent all that's good about America. We're free spirits, but we're also hard working. We're imaginative and we like to have a good time, but we also love what we do, and we have respect for our sport. The Russians wanted to use this to embarrass our country.

SAKS: And there was nothing Blackburn could do about it?

JANNETTY: That's what he said, although I've never heard of a wrestling federation not having any power over its titles. If you ask me, either they're scared of the Russians or they just don't want us to have the belts anymore.

MICHAELS: But why would that be, Marty? We've always represented the AWA well. The fans love us, we're a big drawing card, and we've always given everybody else an open invitation to wrestle us for the belts. If that's the case, it doesn't make any sense.

PETERS: Well, a lot of the AWA's actions don't make any sense. Unfortu-

...there doesn't seem to be anything you can do about this one. Have you thought about alternatives? **JANNETTY:** Sure. There are a number of things we can do. We can go on wrestling in the AWA and just hope that somebody beats the Russians for the belts. Then we can hope that the new champs will give us a title shot. We've also thought about taking the Russians to court, but by the time all the litigation is finished, it could be a year or two. We're young, but we're not ready to wait two years.

RODRIGUEZ: So how about the rumors? People have said it before and now they're saying it again, that you guys are considering a move to the WWF. Is that true?

MICHAELS: It's one of many possibilities. We always keep as many options open as possible.

ROSENBAUM: Come on guys, let's stop beating around the bush. You guys are going, aren't you?

JANNETTY: It's just not that simple, John. Besides, I can remember a few months ago when everybody was convinced that we were going to the WWF, and what happened? We stayed.

PETERS: Yeah, you guys won the tag belts and you didn't want to leave them behind, right?

MICHAELS: That's not true. The truth of the matter is that we'll always go wherever the situation is best for us. It just so happens that right now, the climate in the AWA is not very favorable for The Midnight Rockers. As for the WWF, well, there are teams there who we feel we can beat.

SAKS: Aha! And what teams are you thinking of?

JANNETTY: Well, the champs for one. Brett Hart and Jim Neidhart are poor excuses for champions. The way I see it, they're no different from Rose and Somers. They even have a manager, just like Sherri Martel, to interfere and save their hides for them. That would be one of the most attractive aspects of going to the WWF, knowing that we could beat their tag champs.

RODRIGUEZ: Many people out there
(Continued on page 62)

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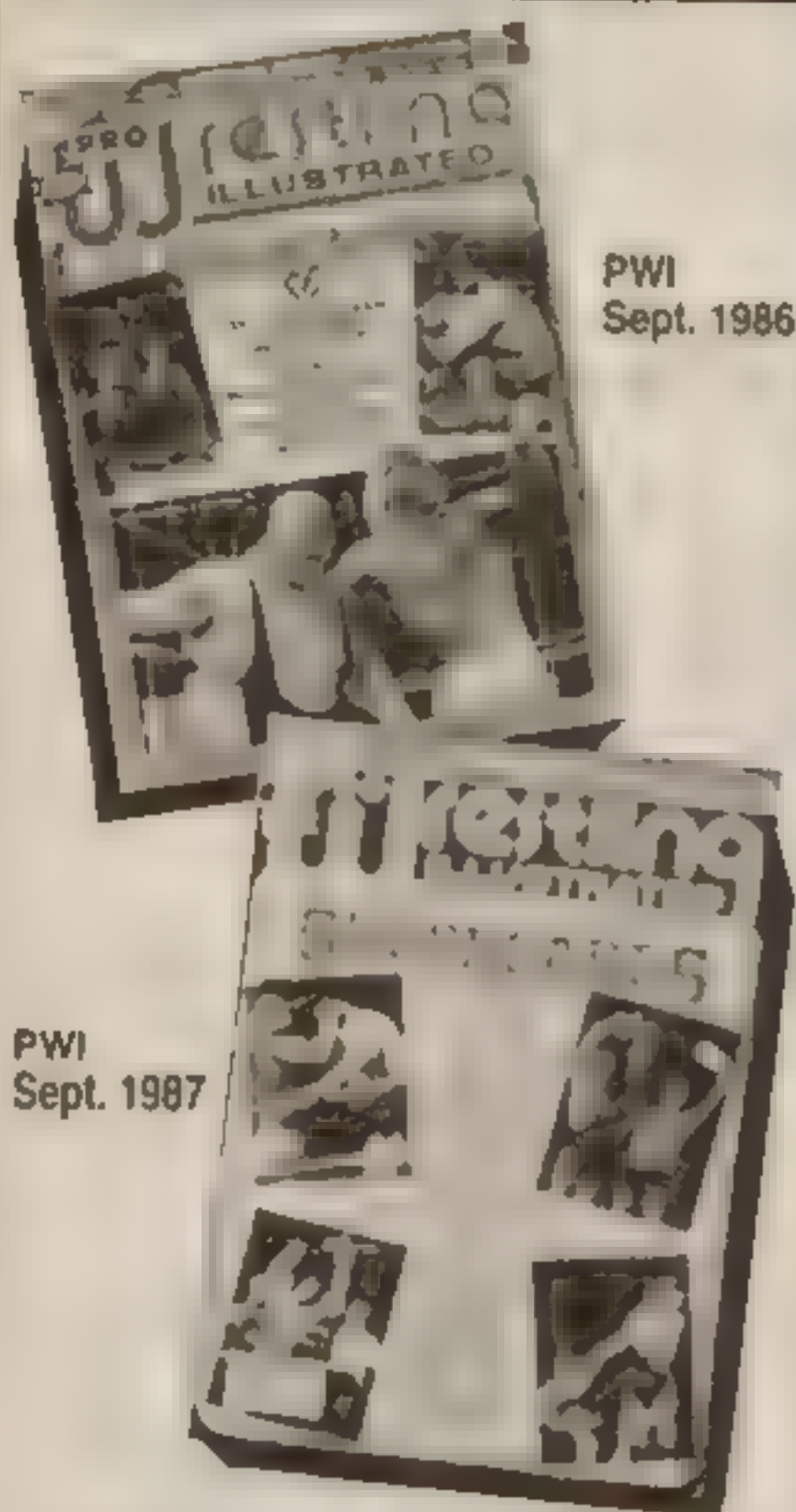
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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 61)



feel that for all of Vince McMahon's successes with the WWF, he's jealous of The Rock 'n' Roll Express' popularity in the NWA. Insiders say that McMahon wants his own Rock 'n' Roll Express and you guys would till the bill.

MICHAELS: We take that as a compliment, although we've always been our own men. The Rock 'n' Roll Express is a great team, one of the greatest in the sport. I think it's only a matter of time until they win the NWA tag titles back. But as far as McMahon wanting us because we could be his Rock 'n' Rollis, well, all I can say is that Marty and I have spent a lot of time forming our own image. We're The Midnight Rockers, and I think we can stand on our own.

With an assist from Michaels, Jannetty comes down hard on Buddy Rose's arm. The Rockers say they're ready for whatever the future brings.

PETERS: What do you guys think about The Can-Am Connection and The British Bulldogs?

JANNETTY: I'll take that one, Shawn. Rick Martel and Tom Zenk are very fine wrestlers and I know they're very popular. They have some very exciting moves. The British Bulldogs have been hurt a little by injuries, but I think they're still one of the most talented teams in the world.

SAKS: It sounds to me like we're going to be seeing you in the WWF very soon.

MICHAELS: Whatever you say, Stu. But we're just gonna have to wait and see. ☐



This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report*; PWI, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

ARCO ARENA (Sacramento, CA): Hulk Hogan defeated Harley Race . . . Dick Slater beat Dave Barbie . . . Lanny Poffo pinned Tiger Chung Lee . . . Ken Patera defeated The Honky Tonk Man . . . Jerry Allen pinned Steve Lombardi . . . The Can-Am Connection defeated Kamala & Silka . . . Cpl. Kirchner beat Jerry Monti.

—Lorenzo Collins

BALTIMORE ARENA (Baltimore): Ric Flair defeated Jim Garvin by disqualification . . . The Road Warriors beat Manny Fernandez & Rick Rude by disqualification . . . Dusty Rhodes beat Dick Murdoch in a Texas death match . . . Nikita Koloff beat Ivan Koloff in a Russian chain match . . . Ron Garvin defeated Lex Luger by disqualification . . . Vladimir Petrov pinned Baron Von Raschke . . . Arn Anderson pinned Tim Horner . . . The New Breed and The Armstrongs wrestled to a draw.

—Matt Cegielski

CIVIC ARENA (St. Joseph, MO): Rufus R. Jones defeated Rip Rogers (substituting for Bulldog Bob Brown) by disqualification to retain the Central States title . . . Bobby Jagers & Bart Batten defeated Porkchop Cash and Mr. Pogo . . . Rick McCord & Earthquake Ferris beat Krusher Karl Kovac & The Warlord . . . Vinnie Valentino pinned Russell Sapp Esquire.

—Dan Roberts

DULUTH ARENA (Duluth, MN): Hercules Hernandez pinned Billy Jack Haynes in a chain match . . . Koko B. Ware defeated Danny Davis . . . The Islanders defeated Magnificent Muraco & Cowboy Bob Orton when Tama pinned Orton . . . Brutus Beefcake used a sleeperhold to defeat Johnny V . . . Lelani Kai & Judy Martin retained their WWF Women's tag team title with a victory over Velvet McIntyre and Candice Purdue . . . Brad Rheingans pinned Jimmy Jack Funk . . . Tom Magee beat Terry Gibbs.

—Rick Garni

THE FORUM (Los Angeles): Baron Von Raschke defeated Konga the Barbarian . . . Bob Armstrong and Ivan Koloff wrestled to a 20-minute draw . . . Jimmy Garvin defeated Bobby Eaton by disqualification . . . Ronnie Garvin pinned Stan Lane in a taped fist match . . . Nikita Koloff & The Road Warriors defeated Paul Jones, Manny Fernandez, & Rick Rude when Nikita pinned

Jones . . . Tully Blanchard defeated Brad Armstrong to retain his TV title.

—Shawn Miner

JACKSONVILLE COLISEUM (Jacksonville, FL): Johnny Ace and Shaska Whatley wrestled to a 15-minute draw . . . The Southern Boys defeated The M.O.D. Squad . . . The Shepherders beat Randy & Bill Mulkey . . . The Tahitian Prince defeated Kendall Windham . . . Ed Gantner defeated Kevin Sullivan in a Texas death match . . . Lex Luger beat Ron Simmons . . . The Freebirds defeated Rick Steiner & Sting . . . Dusty Rhodes defeated Big Bubba by disqualification . . . Ric Flair retained his NWA World title by defeating Mike Rotundo.

—David McConkey

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN (New York): Sam Houston pinned Terry Gibbs . . . Paul Roma & Jim Powers beat Bob Orton & Magnificent Muraco . . . Lanny Poffo defeated Dave Barbie . . . Danny Davis pinned Koko B. Ware . . . Hulk Hogan pinned Harley Race to retain the WWF heavyweight title . . . Debbie Combs beat The Fabulous Moolah by countout . . . Demolition defeated The Killer Bees . . . Ron Bass beat Jose Luis Rivera . . . Ken Patera (substituting for Jake Roberts) beat The Honky Tonk Man by disqualification.

—Benn Becker

OLYMPIC ARENA (Lake Placid, NY): Jerry Allen pinned Jimmy Jack Funk . . . Tiger Chung Lee pinned Tony Garea (replacing Dick Slater) . . . Sam Houston defeated Frenchy Martin . . . Billy Jack Haynes and Hercules Hernandez battled to a draw . . . Demolition defeated the Killer Bees . . . Greg Valentine & Dino Bravo defeated Jacques & Raymond Rougeau . . . Ricky Steamboat beat Randy Savage in a steel cage match.

—Brad Ford

OZAUKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM (Waldo, WI): The Sinister Minister pinned The Bounty Hunter . . . Yukon Moose Cholak beat Shotgun Willie by disqualification . . . The Golden Lion drew with Rocky G. . . Misty Dawn defeated Princess Starfire by disqualification . . . John "Beach Boy" Stewart & Calypso Jim beat The Golden Lion & Johnny Walker . . . Dick the Bruiser pinned The Wild Samoan.

—Kurt Stegemeyer

REPORT

PALMER AUDITORIUM (Davenport, IA): Hercules Hernandez defeated Billy Jack Haynes in a chain match ... Iron Mike Sharpe defeated Siva Afi ... Lelani Kai & Judy Martin beat Candice Purdue & Velvet McIntyre ... Nikolai Volkoff beat Corporal Kirchner ... Outback Jack defeated Frenchy Martin ... Tom Magee and Jimmy Jack Funk battled to a draw.

—Pete Hess

P.N.E. COLISEUM (Vancouver, BC): Dick Slater beat Steve Lombardi ... S.D. Jones defeated Tiger Chung Lee ... The Can-Am Connection beat Kamala & Sika ... Kim Chee beat Scott Allen ... Randy Savage defeated Tito Santana ... The Hart Foundation beat The British Bulldogs in a steel cage match.

—Jason Fisher

PORTLAND MEMORIAL COLISEUM (Portland, OR): Brett Hart & Jim Neidhart defeated Dynamite Kid & Davey Boy Smith in a cage match to retain the WWF tag team belts ... Randy Savage pinned Tito Santana ... Rick Martel & Tom Zenk beat Sika & Kamala ... S.D. Jones pinned Steve Lombardi ... Tiger Chung Lee pinned Dick Slater ... Killer Khan beat Jerry Allen.

—Danny Thompson

ROANOKE CIVIC CENTER (Roanoke, VA): Italian Stallion defeated Thunderfoot II ... Todd Champion pinned Gary Royal ... Baron Von Raschke defeated Thunderfoot I ... Denny Brown and Nelson Royal battled to a time-limit draw ... The New Breed defeated Jimmy Valiant & Lazor-Tron ... Tully Blanchard pinned Bob Armstrong ... Nikita Koloff defeated Ivan Koloff in a Russian chain match ... The Road Warriors defeated Ric Flair & Lex Luger by disqualification when Tully Blanchard interfered.

—Tracy McFadden & Jerline Simpson

THE SPECTRUM (Philadelphia): Hulk Hogan pinned Harley Race ... Billy Jack Haynes defeated The Honky Tonk Man ... Paul Roma & Jim Powers defeated The Shadows ... The Rougeaus defeated Greg Valentine & Dino Bravo ... Nikolai Volkoff beat George "The Animal" Steele by countout ... Danny Davis pinned Koko B. Ware.

—Joe Evans

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (Chicago): Eddie Gilbert and Tim Horner battled to a time-limit draw ... Terry Gordy & Buddy Roberts defeated Sting & Rick Steiner when Gordy pinned Sting ... Chris Adams and Terry Taylor battled to a double-disqualification ... Michael Hayes beat Big Bubba Rogers by disqualification ... The

Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Midnight Express in a best-of-three-falls match for \$25,000 ... Vladimir Petrov & Manny Fernandez beat Barry Windham & Brad Armstrong when Petrov pinned Armstrong ... Nikita Koloff defeated Ivan Koloff in a Russian chain match ... The Road Warriors & Dusty Rhodes beat Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, & Lex Luger in a steel cage match when Hawk pinned Blanchard.

—Mark Chilla

OHIO CENTER (Columbus, Ohio): Outback Jack beat Steve Lombardi ... Ron Bass beat S.D. Jones ... The Islanders beat Bob Orton & Magnificent Muraco ... The Can-Am Connection defeated Kamala & Sika ... Brutus Beefcake beat Johnny V with the sleeper ... The Hart Foundation beat The British Bulldogs in a steel cage match.

—Dan Swartwout

TACOMA DOME (Tacoma, WA): The Hart Foundation beat The British Bulldogs in a steel cage match ... Randy Savage defeated Tito Santana with the use of a foreign object ... The Can-Am Connection pinned Kamala & Sika ... Killer Khan defeated S.D. Jones ... Jerry Allen defeated Steve Lombardi ... Karate Kid & Pipi crushed Lord Littlebrook & Little Tokyo.

—Devin Briggs & Troy Milles

WAR MEMORIAL (Rochester, NY): Nick Kiniski defeated Frenchy Martin ... Outback Jack defeated Mario Mancini ... Magnificent Muraco beat Sivi Afi ... Sika destroyed S.D. Jones ... Billy Jack Haynes and Harley Race battled to a draw ... Greg Valentine & Dino Bravo defeated The Rougeaus ... Brutus Beefcake defeated Johnny V in a steel cage match.

—B. Riley

RECAP: The Road Warriors and Dusty Rhodes kept on top of Ric Flair, Lex Luger, and Tully Blanchard; this six-way war promises to only heat up as The Great American Bash approaches ... Nephew overcame uncle as Nikita Koloff showed his prowess in Russian chain matches with stunning victories over Ivan Koloff ... Lelani Kai and Judy Martin got back on the title defense track, retaining their WWF tag team title with several victories over Velvet McIntyre and Candice Purdue ... Hulk Hogan showed no signs of relenting after his victory over Andre The Giant at Wrestlemania III; Hogan has been looking good against seven-time NWA champion Harley Race ... Demolition took two matches from The Killer Bees as they continue to struggle in building their reputation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ WRESTLING ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ENQUIRER

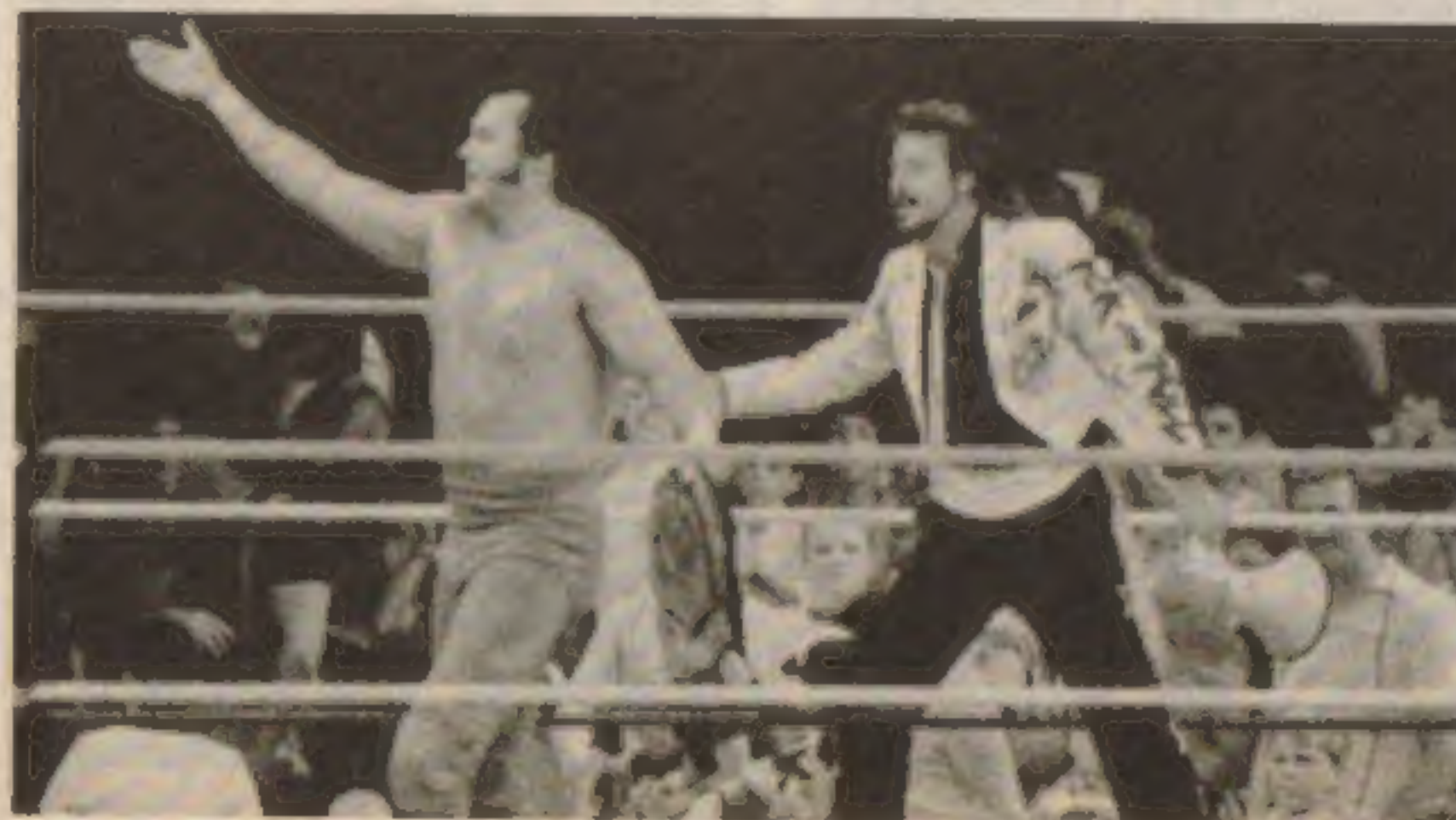
HONKY TONK MAN WINS INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE!

Shocks Wrestling World By Pinning Rick Steamboat For Belt

By ROY LONDON

BUFFALO, NY—The Honky Tonk Man scored one of the most stunning upsets in wrestling history here on June 2 when he pinned Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat for the coveted World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental title. Steamboat's title reign ended after only two months and five days.

The Honky Tonk Man, unranked in last month's *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* WWF ratings, was not considered a major contender for Steamboat's title. But with the help of manager Jimmy Hart, The Honky Tonk Man wrestled the finest match of his career in front of a large TV taping crowd at the War Memorial Auditorium.



Honky Tonk Man and manager Jimmy Hart celebrate the most stunning upset in the history of the Intercontinental title—a pinfall over Rick Steamboat.

Late in the match, Steamboat appeared to have Honky Tonk pinned when Hart jumped up to the ring apron. The referee told Hart to get down and Steamboat walked over and smashed Hart to the floor. Then Steamboat returned to the action and put Honky Tonk in a front headlock before taking him down. But Honky Tonk turned his body slightly so that both men had their shoulders on the mat.

The referee made the three-count, and Steamboat stood up, thinking he had won. But The Honky Tonk Man had lifted his shoulder at the three-count and was awarded the pin. Honky Tonk and Hart then celebrated wildly while Steamboat protested the decision in vain.

Missy Hyatt Returns To UWF

By JOHN BUONORA

TULSA, OK—After a brief but controversial stint in the World Wrestling Federation, Missy Hyatt has returned to the UWF. She is currently negotiating with UWF officials for a gossip segment on UWF television shows.

"All I can say is that it's great to be back home with Eddie [Gilbert]," said Hyatt. "Those people in the WWF, they tried to make me interview those sweaty, disgusting wrestlers, and I just wasn't gonna do it. Maybe the people here will treat me with a little more class."



Missy Hyatt has returned to the UWF after a brief visit to the WWF.

Hyatt's interview segment was slated to replace "Piper's Pit" on WWF television programs, but a disagreement with officials there led to her departure. "The WWF was trying to portray me as something I'm not," said Hyatt. "I didn't want to sit there interviewing those so-called good guys."

Hyatt said that she would prefer not interviewing the wrestlers one on one. "All I want to do is get in front of the camera and tell the people all I know about wrestling," said Hyatt. "I don't need to interview any wrestlers. I'm enough of an attraction by myself."

Greg Gagne Declares War On Curt Hennig

By STU SAKS

MINNEAPOLIS—Greg Gagne, saying that he is disgusted by the actions of his former friend and tag team partner, has vowed to "straighten out" AWA World heavyweight champion Curt Hennig.

"I can't believe what's happened to Curt," said Gagne following a match here. "He used to play by the book and follow all the rules. If you ask me, he's gone out of his mind. Well, I'm gonna put him back in his place before it's too late."

Gagne says he was amazed by the series of events leading to Hennig's

AWA title victory over Nick Bockwinkel. "I couldn't believe it when I saw [Larry] Zbyszko at ringside," said Gagne. "Curt would have never been with Zbyszko before. And I couldn't believe the way he spoke after that match. He's become incredibly arrogant."

Although Gagne says that he would like to one day win the World championship, it's not the first thing on his mind. "All I care about is straightening out Curt," said Gagne. "Somebody has to knock some sense into his head, and what better man to do it than me?"

Lawler Sues Harley Race, WWF

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

MEMPHIS—A Memphis court judge ordered the WWF to stop representing Harley Race as "The King of Wrestling" in Tennessee after Jerry Lawler filed a lawsuit claiming exclusive rights to the tradename, according to a story in the May 21 edition of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

Titan Sports (which operates the WWF), Vince McMahon Jr., Race, the Mid-South Coliseum, and Centra Ticket service of Nashville were named in the suit. No trial date has been set.

Chancellor D.J. Alissandratos signed a temporary restraining order against Titan Sports Inc. prohibiting the WWF from promoting Race as "The King of Wrestling." Lawler, one of the most popular stars in the Mid-Southern area, has used the moniker since 1973. Race was also prohibited from wearing his cape and crown in the ring.

Lawler filed the suit on May 20 after Race appeared on a WWF card in



Who's the true "King of Wrestling," Harley Race or Jerry Lawler? It's up to the courts.



Nashville the previous evening and was to appear in Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum the following night. He claimed that the promotion of Race is an infringement on a registered tradename owned by Lawler. Lawler claims that Race's use of the title deceived the public, caused him to lose money, and damaged his reputation.

Alissandratos also prohibited the Mid-South Coliseum and Centra Ticket from distributing proceeds of the two cards until the court could calculate the monetary damages incurred by Lawler.

AROUND THE GLOBE

TOKYO, JAPAN

Former sumo wrestler John Tenta made his long-awaited pro wrestling debut here in Korakuen Hall. Tenta teamed with his teacher, Shohei "Giant" Baba, in a tag team match against Goro Tsurumi and Rusher Kimura. Tenta, of Canada, won the match for his team when Kimura was counted out of the ring. According to *Wrestling Enquirer* correspondents, Tenta looked a little green and lacked ring speed, but managed to handle himself well.

CALGARY, ALBERTA

WWF World tag team champions The Hart Foundation and The British Bulldogs, both former mainstays in Calgary, have taken their war back to Western Canada. During a recent cage match here, the Harts successfully defended their belts when Jimmy Hart slammed the cage door in Davey Boy Smith's face. Brett Hart then walked out of the ring for the win. It is expected that a number of return bouts will be signed by local promoters.

OSAKA, JAPAN

Japanese Women's tag team champions Kzue Nagahori and Umy Miogura announced that they will begin a tour of Canada with Montreal's International Wrestling group starting July 20. Nagahori and Miogura, who defeated Yumiko Hotta and Hisako Uno for the belts on April 27 in Tokyo, have vowed to defend their belts throughout the world. No set dates and matches have been announced, but they will probably appear on the entire International Wrestling circuit.